

RELEASED PER P.L.-102-526(JFK ACT)
 NARA RC DATE 11-15-08

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MEMORANDUM

Nov. 27, 1963

To: L Mr. Thomas Ehrlich

From: FSO John A. McVickar

Subject: Lee Harvey OSWALD

You asked me to submit a written memorandum regarding anything I knew personally about Oswald and his dealings with the American Embassy in Moscow in 1959, 1960 and 1961.

First I should note that, while I was one of two officers in the consular section of the Embassy during this period, I did not myself handle the case and my contact with it was therefore peripheral. Moreover, to the extent that anything I have to say here conflicts with the record as reported by the Embassy at the time, the latter should be taken as nearer fact.

In addition to myself I know of the following other persons who were in contact with Oswald in Moscow:

- 1.) Consul Richard E. Snyder, who handled the matter during 1959-61 and who is I believe now in Japan.
- 2.) Consul Joseph Norbury who handled the case after 1961 for the Embassy and who is now assigned to the Foreign Service Institute of the Department.
- 3.) Mrs. Verna Deane (Stanley) Brown, who acted as the confidential secretary for the consular section during most of this period and who is now an employee of the Department of Agriculture.
- 4.) Miss Priscilla Johnson, who was at the time a correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance in the Soviet Union. She had a long interview with Oswald in his hotel in an effort to get his story and to persuade him to return to the United States.
- 5.) Mr. Bud Korngold, UPI correspondent, who is I believe still in the Soviet Union.

In my memory the following is a general description of the case: Oswald came into the Embassy immediately after his arrival from the Soviet Union from the United States. He turned in his passport and said that he wanted to renounce his American citizenship and remain in the Soviet Union. His passport was retained, but his renunciation was not accepted. He remained a few days in Moscow staying at the Metropole Hotel and was in contact with the Soviet authorities and with at least the two American correspondents named above (4)&(5). He then disappeared and was next heard from some weeks later from Minsk where he said he was working in an electronics plant. He eventually wrote again and said that he had married a Soviet girl

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Based on my impressions of Oswald, as I recall them, and on my general experience in consular work in the Soviet Union, I have these comments:

I recall thinking at the time that Oswald was behaving with a great deal of determination and purpose for such a young and relatively uneducated person. He was certainly very independent and fearless in a rather blind way and it seemed to me that he could have acquired all these ideas himself and could have planned his prompt trip to the USSR after release from the Marines and his attempted renunciation of citizenship. On the other hand, there also seemed to me to be the possibility that he was following a pattern of behaviour which he had been tutored by person or persons unknown. For example, in discussing Marxism and the legalities of renunciation he seemed to be using words which he had learned but did not fully understand. His determined statements in rather long words were not entirely consistent and not in a fully logical sequence. I am sorry that I do not remember examples but only this impression. Of course, this could have been because he had merely studied books himself without ^{fully} understanding what they meant, ~~or but~~ it seemed that it could also have been that he had been taught to say things which he did not really understand. In short, it seemed to me that there was a possibility that he had been in contact with others before or during his Marine Corps tour who had guided him ~~in this~~ and encouraged him in his actions.

In regard to his sanity, of course, not being an expert in this field one cannot say much. However, it did seem to me that his unqualified distaste for America and Americans was irrational in that it exceeded anything that could possibly have been justified. And this was my impression at the time and is not a ~~mere~~ projection of present feelings into the past. Furthermore the reasoning which he gave for this feeling was by no means clear and his thinking seemed quite muddled. I am not sure what a "persecution complex" is in the technical sense, but he seemed as though he might have one.

In conclusion, I may add that to the best of my memory I recognized the photographs which I have seen of Oswald in the newspapers as the same man who came into the Embassy under that name in October, 1959.

JAMcVickar:11/27/63.

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CC: SOV Mr. Owen

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and wished to return to the United States. He still later came to the Embassy for an interview in this connection in July, 1961. Many months later the Soviet Government finally gave him and his wife permission to depart and the Embassy was authorized by the Department to renew his American passport and to give his wife an immigration visa, whereupon they departed for the United States. I believe that this was in the spring of 1962, but I am not sure of this since I myself departed from Moscow in September, 1961.

My personal contact with the matter was actually only at the time that Oswald first came to the Embassy in ~~the~~ October, 1969. At this time I shared the same office with Mr. Snyder and was present in the room during ~~the~~ his interview with Oswald. As I recall the interview may have lasted an hour or so. Oswald was extremely arrogant, truculent and unfriendly to America and Americans in general. He wanted to divest himself of his citizenship forthwith. His reasons were not too clear, but he gave the impression of being very angry about something or things which had happened to him during his childhood or during his duty in the Marine Corps. He said, however, that he was a "Marxist" and that he had become disgusted with American "imperialism" as he had observed it in operation in the Far East while in the Marines. He gave evidence of some education in the rudiments of Communist dogma and he apparently had some knowledge of the legalities involved in the renunciation of citizenship. He also did state that while in the Marines he had worked with radar and that he would turn over everything he knew about it to the Soviet military authorities. In the minds of those concerned at the time, this statement tended to extinguish any sympathy one may have felt for a confused and unhappy youngman. Mr. Snyder did not accept his renunciation of citizenship on this occasion because it is not prescribed procedure to permit these things to be done hastily. Moreover, there had been a case immediately previous in which a man had renounced his citizenship and then wanted it back a week later. (This case involved one Petrulli, who as it turned out had a medical record of mental ailment). I recall having a few words with Oswald at the time, but I don't remember what was said. After Oswald left the Embassy on this occasion I had no direct personal contact with the matter, but followed it in conversations with my colleague, Mr. Snyder, and with the above named correspondents. As to fact, I have nothing further to add except what appears in the records or what may be better obtained from other parties involved.



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 NARA AT DATE 12/1/07

Standard Form 86
 AUGUST 1964
 U.S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
 (F.P.M. CHAPTER 730)
 50-105

SECURITY INVESTIGATION DATA FOR SENSITIVE POSITION

CASE SERIAL NO. (CSC use only)

INSTRUCTIONS.—Prepare in triplicate, using a typewriter. Fill in all items. If the answer is "No" or "None," so state. If more space is needed for any item, continue under item 28.

1. FULL NAME <i>(Initials and abridgements of full name are not acceptable. If no middle name, show "(NMN)"; if initials only, show "(no given or middle name)".</i>		(LAST NAME) McVICKAR	(FIRST NAME) John	(MIDDLE NAME) Anthony	2. DATE OF BIRTH May 22, 1924
OTHER NAMES USED. (Maiden name, names by former marriages, former names changed legally or otherwise, aliases, nicknames, etc. Specify which, and show dates used.) none					3. PLACE OF BIRTH New York, NY
					4. ☒ MALE ☐ FEMALE
		5. HEIGHT 5'10"	WEIGHT 175	COLOR EYES Bn	COLOR HAIR Bn
6. ☒ SINGLE ☐ MARRIED ☐ WIDOW(ER) ☐ DIVORCED		7. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED, GIVE FULL NAME AND DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH OF SPOUSE OR FORMER SPOUSE. INCLUDE WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME. GIVE DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE OR DIVORCE. (Give same information regarding all previous marriages and divorces.) NA			

8. DATES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE. (If actual places of residence differ from the mailing addresses, furnish and identify both. Begin with present and go back to January 1, 1937. Continue under item 28 on other side if necessary.)

FROM	TO	NUMBER AND STREET	CITY	STATE
'37	'42	Shore Road,	Cold Spring Harbor, LI,	NY
'42	'45	Active Duty USNR (Ser # 575-78-69)		
'46	6/48	Georgetown University,	Washington,	DC
6/48	4/49	Shore Road,	Cold Spring Harbor, LI,	NY
5/49	6/51	American Embassy,	New Delhi,	India.
10/51	2/54	American Consulate General,	Hong Kong,	BCC
3/54	9/56	1016 29th St NW,	Washington,	DC (owned house)
9/56	8/57	1420 33rd St. NW,	Wash,	DC (rented house)
8/57	8/58	3019 (?close) Dumbarton Ave NW,	Washington,	DC (apt)
8/58	6/59	5 Clement Circle,	Cambridge,	Mass (at Harvard U.)
6/59	9/61	American Embassy,	Moscow,	USSR
9/61	11/63	1650 Avon Place NW,	Washington,	DC
1/64	2/66	American Consulate,	Cochabamba,	Bolivia.

9.	☒ BY BIRTH	☐ NATURALIZED	ALIEN REGISTRATION NO.	DATE, PLACE, AND COURT
☒ U.S. CITIZEN	CERT. NO.		PETITION NO.	
	☐ DERIVED-PARENTS CERT. NO(S).			
☐ ALIEN	REGISTRATION NO.	NATIVE COUNTRY	DATE AND PORT OF ENTRY	

10. EDUCATION. (All schools above elementary.)

NAME OF SCHOOL	ADDRESS	FROM (Year)	TO (Year)	DEGREES
St. Mark's School,	Southborough, Mass	37	42	Diploma
Cornell Univ.,	Ithaca, NY	44	45	(none V-12)
Georgetown Univ.,	Wash, DC	46	48	BSFS USNR
Harvard University,	Camb. Mass.	58	59	MPA

DOS HAS NO
 OBJECTION TO THE RELEASE
 OF THIS INFORMATION
 PER THEIR LET. DTD
 4-20-98
 401/KSK
 5-16-98
 (JFK)

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 10-18-96 BY 5668 SLD/KSK

(JFK)

11. THIS SPACE FOR FBI USE. (See also item 29.)		12. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 130-16-6432	
		13. MILITARY SERVICE (Past or present)	
		SERIAL NO. (If none, give grade or rating at separation)	BRANCH OF SERVICE (Army, Navy, Air Force, etc.)
		575-78-69	USNR
		532028	USNR off
		FROM (Yr.)	TO (Yr.)
		42	45
		51	date
		inactive	

ENCLOSURE

62-75450-216

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 NARA BAI DATE 12/1/09

11. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DISCHARGED FROM ARMED FORCES UNDER OTHER THAN HONORABLE CONDITIONS? ☐ YES ☒ NO.
 (If answer is "Yes," give details in item 28.)

15. EMPLOYMENT. (List ALL employment dates starting with your present employment. Give both month and year for all dates. Show ALL dates and addresses when unemployed. Give name under which employed if different from name now used.)

FROM	TO	NAME OF EMPLOYER (Firm or agency) AND SUPERVISOR (Full name, if known)	ADDRESS (Where employed)	TYPE OF WORK	REASON FOR LEAVING
47	48	Auchincloss, Parker & Redpath,	Wash, DC	Bookkeeper	study
48	49	Kenyon Inst. Co.	Huntington, LI, NY	Inspector	enter FS
49	date	US Foreign Service, Dept of State,	Washington, DC and overseas (see above)		

16. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DISCHARGED (FIRED) FROM EMPLOYMENT FOR ANY REASON? ☐ YES ☒ NO.

17. HAVE YOU EVER RESIGNED (QUIT) AFTER BEING INFORMED THAT YOUR EMPLOYER INTENDED TO DISCHARGE (FIRE) YOU FOR ANY REASON? ☐ YES ☒ NO.
 (If your answer to 16 or 17 above is "Yes" give details in item 28. Show the name and address of employer, approximate date, and reasons in each case. This information should agree with the statements made in item 15—EMPLOYMENT.)

18. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED, TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, HELD FOR INVESTIGATION OR QUESTIONING, OR CHARGED BY ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY? (You may omit: (1) Traffic violations for which you paid a fine of \$30 or less; and (2) anything that happened before your 16th birthday. All other incidents must be included, even though they were dismissed or you merely forfeited collateral.) ☐ YES ☒ NO.

IF YOUR ANSWER IS "YES," GIVE FULL DETAILS BELOW:

DATE	CHARGE	PLACE	LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY	ACTION TAKEN
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CASE SERIAL NO. (CSO Case #)

19. HAVE YOU EVER HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN OR HAVE YOU EVER HAD MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR A MENTAL CONDITION? ☐ YES ☒ NO.
 (If your answer is "Yes," give details in item 28.)

20. FOREIGN COUNTRIES VISITED (SINCE 1930). (Exclusive of military service.)

COUNTRY	DATE LEFT U.S.A.	DATE RETURNED U.S.A.	PURPOSE
India, HongKong, USSR, Bolivia			see above residence data on assignment with US Foreign Service.

21. ARE YOU NOW, OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN, A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, U.S.A., OR ANY COMMUNIST OR FASCIST ORGANIZATION? ☐ YES ☒ NO.

22. ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF ANY FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC ORGANIZATION, ASSOCIATION, MOVEMENT, GROUP, OR COMBINATION OF PERSONS WHICH IS TOTALITARIAN, FASCIST, COMMUNIST, OR SUBVERSIVE, OR WHICH HAS ADOPTED, OR SHOWS, A POLICY OF ADVOCATING OR APPROVING THE COMMISSION OF ACTS OF FORCE OR VIOLENCE TO DENY OTHER PERSONS THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, OR WHICH SEEKS TO ALTER THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY UNCONSTITUTIONAL MEANS? ☐ YES ☒ NO.

23. IF YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 21 OR 22 ABOVE IS "YES," STATE THE NAMES OF ALL SUCH ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, MOVEMENTS, GROUPS, OR COMBINATIONS OF PERSONS AND DATES OF MEMBERSHIP. IN ITEM 28 OR ON A SEPARATE SHEET TO BE ATTACHED TO AND MADE A PART OF THIS FORM, GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF YOUR ACTIVITIES THEREIN AND MAKE ANY EXPLANATION YOU DESIRE REGARDING YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR ACTIVITIES.

NAME IN FULL	ADDRESS	FROM	TO	OFFICE HELD
NA				

No relatives now residing in foreign countries.

24. MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. (List all organizations in which you are now a member or have been a member, except those which show religious or political affiliations.) (If none, so state.)

NAME IN FULL	ADDRESS	TYPE	FROM	TO	OFFICE HELD
social clubs in overseas posts only					

25. RELATIVES. (Parents, spouse, divorced spouse, children, brothers, and sisters, living or dead. Name of spouse should include maiden name and any other names by previous marriage. If person is dead, state "dead" after relationship and furnish information for other columns as of time of death.)

RELATION	NAME IN FULL	YEAR OF BIRTH	ADDRESS	COUNTRY OF BIRTH	PRESENT CITIZENSHIP
Stepmother	Mrs. Lansing McVickar	7	PO Box 56, Hillsdale, NY	Ger.	US
Mother	Mrs. Frederick Forrest	245	West 10th St, NYC	USA	US
Brother(half)	Peter Jessup	120	3210 Rolling Road, Chevy Chase, Md	USA	US
Sister(half)	Mrs. Cecily (Chas E) Goetz	13208	East Lee St, Tucson, Ariz	USA	U
Sister	Mrs. Allan Edwards	25	4712 Dee Boyar St, Lakewood, Cal.	Fr.	
Never married.					
Father	Col. Lansing McVickar	96	US Army, deceased.		

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26a. REFERENCES (Name three persons, relatives or employers, who are aware of your qualifications and fitness.)

NAME IN FULL	HOME ADDRESS	BUSINESS ADDRESS	YEARS KNOWN
Frank C. Fisher	Bayville, LI, NY	Pan American Bldg, NYC	40
Frank Sisco	Counselor of Embassy, American Embassy, Copenhagen, Denmark		
Robert I. Owen	Washington, DC	EUR/SOV Dept of State	7 1/5

26b. CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATES. (Name three persons, such as friends, schoolmates or colleagues, who know you well.)

NAME IN FULL	HOME ADDRESS	BUSINESS ADDRESS	YEARS KNOWN
George Brasfield	Washington, DC	Alex Brown & Sons, Wash, DC	10
Cdr. John Dugger USN	Washington, DC	CINCPAC Staff, Manila, PI	
William Ziegler	New Caanan, Conn.	Sullivan & Cromwell, 48 Wall St NYC	

27. TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A FULL FIELD OR BACKGROUND PERSONAL INVESTIGATION BY ANY AGENCY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT? ☒ YES ☐ NO. (If your answer is "Yes," show in item 28, (1) the name of the investigating agency (2) the approximate date of investigation, and (3) the level of security clearance granted, if known.)

28. SPACE FOR CONTINUING ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS. (Show item numbers to which answers apply. Attach a separate sheet if there is not enough space here.)

(27): FBI; at least twice, about '48 and '54; TS
ONI; about '50; ?

29. REPORT OF INFORMATION DEVELOPED. (This space reserved for FBI use.)

DATE:

Before signing this form check back over it to make sure you have answered all questions fully and correctly.

CERTIFICATION

I CERTIFY that the statements made by me on this form are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith.

False statement on this form
is punishable by law.

Feb. 9, 1966

(DATE)

John A. McVickar
(SIGNATURE—Sign original and first carbon copy)

INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED BY AGENCY

INSTRUCTIONS TO AGENCY: See Federal Personnel Manual Chapter 736 and FPM Supplement 296-31, Appendix A, for details on when this form is required and how it is used. If this is a request for investigation before appointment, insert "APPL" in the space for Date of Appointment and show information about the proposed appointment in the other spaces for appointment data. The original and the first carbon copy should be signed by the applicant or appointee. Submit the original and the unsigned carbon copy of the form, Standard Form 87 (Fingerprint Chart), and any investigative information about the person received on voucher forms or otherwise, to the United States Civil Service Commission, Bureau of Personnel Investigations, Washington, D.C. 20415. If this is a request for full field security investigation, submit these forms to the attention of the Division of Reimbursable Investigations; if this is a request for preappointment national agency checks, submit these forms to the attention of the Control Section.

RETAIN THE CARBON COPY OF STANDARD FORM 86 (SIGNED BY THE APPLICANT OR APPOINTEE) FOR YOUR FILES

DATE OF APPOINTMENT	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT ☐ EXCEPTED ☐ COMPETITIVE. (Include indefinite and temporary types of competitive appointments.)	CIVIL SERVICE REGULATION NUMBER OR OTHER APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY	TITLE OF POSITION AND GRADE OR SALARY
DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY	DUTY STATION	SEND RESULTS OF PREAPPOINTMENT CHECK TO:	
THIS IS A SENSITIVE POSITION			
(SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED AGENCY OFFICIAL)			

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NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9

80-97 WED 15:10 MCVICKAR LAW OFFICE

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P. 01

McVICKAR

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FAX MESSAGEPlease expedite at addressee office.FROM: FAX # (802) 253-⁷⁴¹⁶~~7416~~ in Stowe, Vermont.Date: July 30, 1997 Time: 3 pmTO: Dr. Michelle CoombsARRBoard 600 E St. NW 2nd Fl.Washington, DC 20530To: FAX No.: (202) 724-0457Phone: () -0088

TEXT:

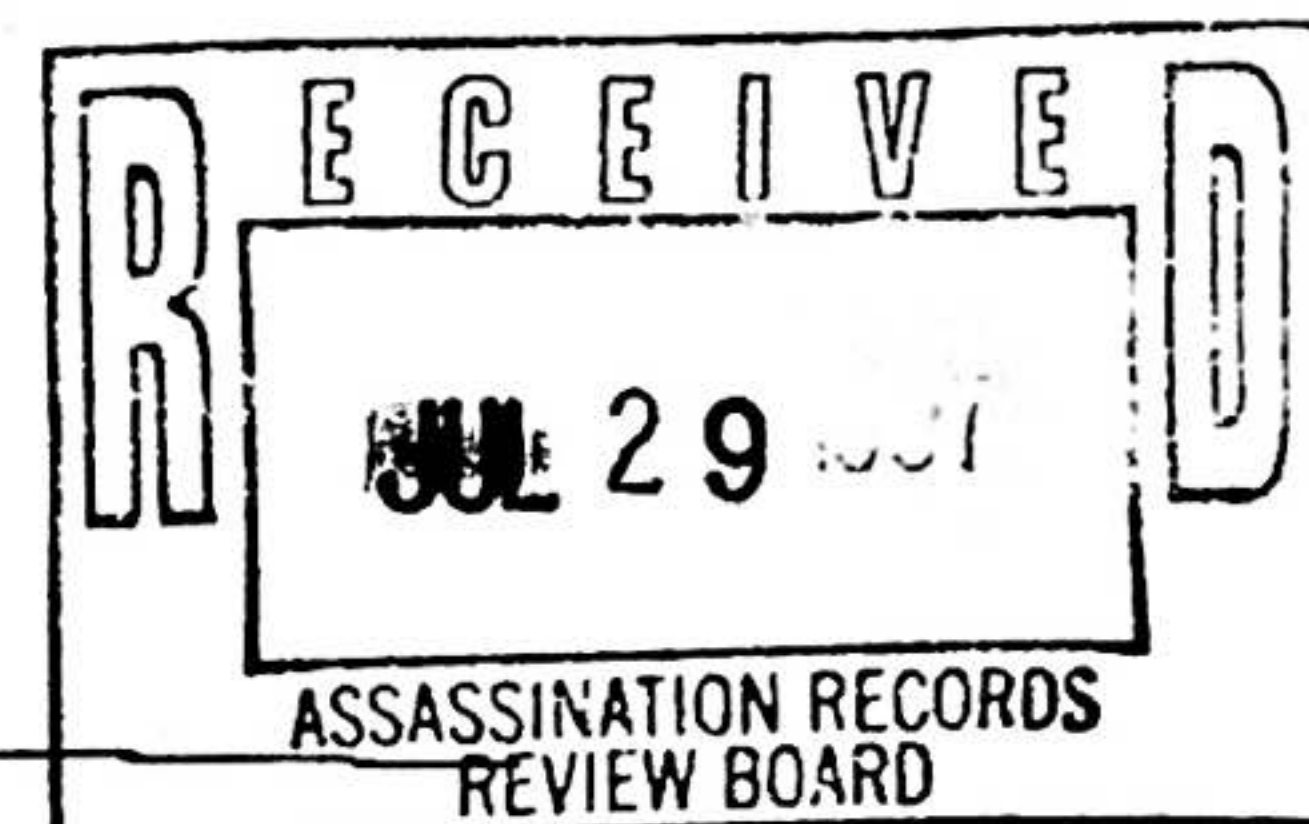
Dear Dr. Coombs:

(Robert I.)

I had a postcard today from Bob and Mary Owen (he being the Soviet Desk officer at the State Department in Washington as of Nov. 1963.) She says that your office has not yet contacted them, and that he is due for hip surgery on August 11. Their address is: Robert and Mary Owen, 266 Wall St., West Longbranch, NJ 07764, Phone (908) 229-7678. (I may have given it to you wrong earlier.) If you do get in touch with them, go easy on them. They sound a bit tired on the phone. Not that you would do otherwise!

Sincerely,

John McVickar



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The above text from a law office contains CONFIDENTIAL information which is legally PRIVILEGED. ANY disclosure, copying, dissemination, or use of the contents by other than the addressee is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this FAX in error, please notify us immediately by phone, calling collect.

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